

HONORING ROBERT PARTRIDGE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Robert Partridge. Robert is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1096, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Robert has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Robert has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Robert has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Robert Partridge for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ENDING SECRECY ABOUT WORK-
PLACE SEXUAL HARASSMENT
ACT**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Ending Secrecy About Workplace Sexual Harassment Act.

We are experiencing a national moment of reckoning. Millions of people who have been victims of sexual misconduct in the workplace are telling their stories and initiating a movement to create real change. We have an obligation to listen to all those who have come forward and recognize that many are still suffering in silence. And we also have an obligation to take action to make things better going forward.

The Ending Secrecy About Workplace Sexual Harassment Act will help lift the shroud of secrecy surrounding these cases that have concealed them for years or even decades by requiring companies to annually report all out-of-court settlements involving claims of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment and assault to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

When employers don't have to disclose these internal settlements and there is no public record about abuse, it can cause great harm to victims, other employees, and even the public at large. More complete data and a transparency requirement will help identify institutional problems that should elicit further investigation by EEOC. This bill also has the potential to spark a change in the workplace, inspiring corporate leaders to focus on prevention if they know that complete secrecy is no longer an option regardless of how a claim is addressed and resolved. With total secrecy, companies have absolutely no incentive to focus on preventing sexual misconduct if they know they will never be held accountable.

In 2015, there were nearly 30,000 reports filed with the EEOC involving sexual harass-

ment. That is one-third of the total harassment reports filed that year alone. If companies had to report all of their private settlements, that number would likely increase. The EEOC can also use these reports to take action, if appropriate, and go after violators.

I believe this is an important first step toward increasing accountability in the private sector to ensure a safer, fairer workplace for everyone. I thank my colleagues, Representatives KHANNA, NORTON, CUMMINGS, DAVID SCOTT, SHEA-PORTER, RASKIN, CONNOLLY, SUOZZI, KUSTER, MOORE, DINGELL, and PAL-LONE for joining me as original cosponsors on this legislation, and hope that more members will support as well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 697; YEA on Roll Call No. 698; YEA on Roll Call No. 699; YEA on Roll Call No. 700; and NAY on Roll Call No. 701.

HONORING SERGEANT BRITTE'S
CAREER OF SERVICE**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sergeant Joseph Britte, Jr. After protecting our neighbors for more than 20 years, Sergeant Britte will be retiring from the Gainesville Police Department.

On a leap of faith, Sergeant Britte and his family moved from their home in Providence, Rhode Island to Gainesville in 1996. Upon arrival, he joined the Gainesville Police Department and began a job of public service that has characterized his life.

As a law enforcement official, Sergeant Britte has demonstrated a servant's heart and professional excellence. He dedicated countless hours to training and eventually earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in organizational leadership and criminal justice.

When he wasn't on duty, Sergeant Britte still took an interest in the wellbeing of those around him. He mentored local students and taught self-defense classes all across Hall County.

Mr. Speaker, my staff and I have had the privilege of getting to know this man over the years. We believe that Hall County residents looking for examples of leadership and empathy should look no farther than our friend, Joe Britte.

I thank this officer for his service to Gainesville and congratulate him on the adventures that lie ahead.

COMMENDING NORTH JERSEY
MAYORS**HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the mayors of North Jersey, who convened last weekend for my Fifth District Mayors Summit. I'm proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with these local leaders to help save residents' property tax dollars, improve our schools, and get police and firefighters the tools and resources they need to protect our communities from crime and terror.

I am humbled every day to have the opportunity to work with our mayors. This past weekend, I watched first-hand as they put party aside and worked across the aisle to help claw back federal tax dollars in their towns—an urgent need, now more than ever, given the tax hike we are facing.

In North Jersey, we are paying far too much in taxes, and not getting enough in return. My District pays some of the highest taxes in the nation; yet, we only get 33 cents back for every dollar that we send to Washington. Compare that to "Moocher States," like Mississippi, which gets \$4.38 on the dollar. These states are giving themselves relief and sticking New Jersey with the bill.

The Tax Hike Bill passed yesterday is only going make matters worse—gutting our State and Local Tax deductions, increasing our taxes, and lowering our property values. We must continue working hard at the local level to blunt the impact of this harmful legislation and stop New Jersey from becoming America's piggy bank.

In New Jersey, we must be vigilant about clawing back as many federal tax dollars as possible to boost our return on investment for roads and bridges, for firefighters and law enforcement, and the resources they need to help fight crime and lone wolf and homegrown terror. Working closely with my office, and my Director of Return on Investment, these mayors have already seen record successes this year to support our cops, firefighters, and towns. For example, in Paramus, the police department will be hiring five new post-9/11 veterans as police officers, thanks to a \$1.875 million federal COPS grant. Harrington Park also brought back nearly \$213,000 in AFG grants to help protect firefighters and our families. These are dollars that would be going to Alabama and Mississippi if we didn't fight to claw them back here. Our bipartisan work together is about fighting for North Jersey and helping our residents reduce their property tax burden.

I'm leaving no stone unturned and hope that by shining a light on these public servants, our mayors can build on their success and save more money for their towns and taxpayers. Getting this done is all about problem solving, and reaching across the aisle to do what's right for our communities. These are not Democratic or Republican issues; they are about what's best for New Jersey.

This holiday season, I am thankful for the twenty-one mayors and leaders who attended our summit, rolled up their sleeves, and put in the weekend hours to help their towns. Countless other mayors, councilmen, and councilwomen across the District have also worked